

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

5:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Liana Fenton

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for Academic and
Technology Services**

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The Regular School Committee was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members in attendance were, Michael Mancieri, Steven Ruscito, and Michelle Fonseca.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

•No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for July 21, 2011.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

An award was given for the Newport Daily News Student of the Week. The retirements of Technology Teacher Janice O’Donnell and Title I Math Teacher Melissa Kerins was recognized.

A short recess was taken

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To move the basketball discussion from New Business to the top of agenda. Unanimous vote.

A Freshman Boys’ Basketball Team would be beneficial, due to the

large number of boys trying out for basketball. The estimated cost to field a team is \$6,000 per year. The Gaudet basketball team will receive new uniforms, so the old uniforms are available for the Freshman team. Mrs. Spengler said this gives students the opportunity to build on their skills and asked about Boosters support.

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At the August 9th meeting, the School Committee could vote to approve a Freshman Basketball Team. Mrs. Kraeger said the best idea is to raise money to get program started. Mrs. Spengler asked when the deadline is to submit for the Interscholastic League. Mrs. Kraeger gave Athletic Director Eric Godin the approval to file.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for July 21, 2011.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Memo regarding the Aquidneck School project, we will be ready to**

start a study in October 2011 for construction in late June 2012. The design should be ready months before school gets out. The Facilities Department can start building furniture and bookcases throughout the year.

- Memo regarding the Summer School Program. The Town approved \$15,000.**

- The registration ad will be appearing to the Newport Daily News.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for July 21, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2011 School Committee Meeting**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 14, 2011, in the amount of \$74,233.06**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 15, 2011, in the amount of \$74,098.03**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 24, 2011, in the amount of \$593,734.31**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 27, 2011, in the amount of \$97,552.25
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 29, 2011, in the amount of \$679,846.72
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2011, in the amount of \$6,260.54
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated June 30, 2011, in the amount of \$2,363.38

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

David Pritchard Science Teacher, Middletown High School

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Janice O'Donnell Technology Teacher

Melissa Kerins Title I Math, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION

Susan McIntosh Clerk, Middletown High School

Katie Shanley Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

APPOINTMENT

Colleen Larson Dean of Students, Middletown High School

Eric Godin Athletic Director, Middletown High School

**Michael Rodrigues Full-Time Night Custodian, Facilities Management
Department**

2011- 2012 COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Arthur Bell Head Varsity Football Coach

Jay Punsky Varsity Hockey Coach

ACTION ITEMS

HOME SCHOOLING

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School
Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-01. Unanimous vote.**

FUND BALANCE POLICY – 2nd READING

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School
Committee approve the Fund Balance Policy – 2nd Reading.**

Unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Facilities Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISTRICT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the District School Administrative Support Personnel Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISTRICT SCHOOL DATA PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTION – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the District School Data Personnel Job Description – 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Foreign Exchange Student Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Middletown has been accepting foreign students for years. Families often are associated with an organization. Recently, there was uncertainty with one application. There is an approved list of accredited agencies. Miss DiPalma asked if it is common to have only grades 11-12. The MIC3 Compact does not cover students

coming through an agency.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the hiring of the individuals listed on the attached schedule for the positions adjacent to their names based on the attached salary schedule and the terms and conditions listed in the attached individual model contract and that the Chair be authorized to execute said contracts on behalf of the Committee. Unanimous vote.

ARCHITECTURAL FEASIBILITY STUDY

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Stage II, Necessity of School Construction, Architectural Feasibility Study. Unanimous vote.

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Mr. Collins said that the Stage 2 application was necessary for Middletown to get reimbursement on capital improvement projects. There is an August 6th deadline for submittal. It is anticipated that the application will come back requesting clarification. The Building Advisory Committee approved the application.

BID AWARD – PURCHASE OF CUSTODIAL MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee award the Purchase of Custodial Maintenance Equipment bid award to Simplex Janitorial. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD – DISTRICT-WIDE TOILET TISSUE/PAPER TOWELS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee award the District-Wide Toilet Tissue/Paper Towel Bid Award to Simplex Janitorial. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Collins said that if we went with the other bid, the difference is only \$200, but would require new dispensers which would cause disruption to students and staff.

OLD BUSINESS

•Aquidneck School Learning Center Plans – This was discussed during “Information”. We are still going forward with high school project and reprioritizing Capital Improvement dollars. Last month, the DoD and cell tower dollars were designated to go towards Capital Improvement. Mr. Collins said the high school project does not have

to be done before school starts. We will go at a slower pace because of lack of funding.

NEW BUSINESS

***Truancy Court –** There was a challenge from school districts in the northern part of the state. The recommendation from our School Attorney is to withdraw from truancy court and refer students to family court. Mrs. Kraeger said there are options for dealing with truancy as a district. Mrs. Kraeger will review dropout rates over the past years and what options students chose, if any. Mr. O’Connell said that he is against Governor Chafee’s amendment making dropout age 18.

•House Bill 5894 – It is no longer necessary advertise School Committee Meeting agendas in the newspaper. It is still necessary to post on the State Open Meetings website, the school department website, and two other prominent locations in Middletown. We will post to the library and Town Hall, as well as all schools. The agenda will also be sent to all district listservs and www.Patch.com.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•Curriculum – The curriculum report will be moved to the August meetings. There will be a request to approve curriculum.

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•Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that the Governor’s budget has been sign. Highlights include the elimination of funding to Early Childhood Categorical Programs, the elimination of funding to Support and Intervention Programs and the restoration of funding for non-public textbook reimbursements. It institutes a 3-year moratorium on school construction approval and eliminates the requirement for School Committees to post agendas in newspaper. The budget implements the Year 1 Funding Formula, restores Education Aid to replace expiring State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, reduced Education Aid in an amount equal to Education Jobs Bill funding and provides funding for non-public/regional transportation and 2% regional bonus.

The FY 2012 Education Aid is \$8,969,558. The School Department has budgeted \$9,004,562 so the additional budget reduction is \$35,004. The Town Tax Appropriation is \$23,004,413 and the School Department has requested \$23,353,459 leaving a shortfall of \$349,046.

Reductions have been made in hardware, software and technology, textbooks and supplies. Still need to reduce \$132,978.

We have an increase of from last year at this time. There is a question if additional staff will be necessary. The Naval War College arrives the second week of August. There is concern because

enrollment at Aquidneck School is already high. The next steps are to examine the actual enrollment, determine staffing needs, review decision package and reconcile budget reductions.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

No Reports of Officers and Committees for July 21, 2011.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 6:22 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The next School Committee Meetings will be held on August 9th and August 25th at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk